



Community Congregational United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming & Just Peace Church

Sunday Worship @ 10:30 AM

The Communicator

February 2020

Transitions

We go through transitions throughout our lives. We move. We graduate. We get a new job. Our old way of living is gone, and a new life begins. In his classic book, *Transitions: Making Sense of Life's Changes*, William Bridges wrote that there is a threefold movement to transitions: The Ending, The Neutral Zone, The New Beginning. It might surprise you that an ending always comes first. As the poet, T. S. Eliot wrote,

*What we call the beginning is often the end
And to make an end is to make a beginning.
The end is where we start from.*

There is a temptation to skip right to the last step because endings are difficult. There is a painful "disengagement, disidentification, disenchantment and disorientation." In a healthy process we grieve, remember, celebrate and finally, let go. Saying goodbye properly helps us to truly say hello. No new time of life is possible without the death of an old lifetime. Mircea Eliade wrote about the wisdom in rituals:

In no rite or myth do we find the initiatory death as something final, but always as the condition sine qua non of a transition to another mode of being, a trial indispensable to re-generation; that is, to the beginning of new life.

The basic pattern—death, three days, and resurrection—is found in nature, cultural wisdom traditions and religions. The Neutral Zone is that time of fertile emptiness, an important fallow time in winter, when the sense of self gestates, when we wander in the wilderness. It is a lonely time of reflection and taking stock, groping through the darkness. Being in this limbo requires patience.

Finally, we come to a beginning only at the end. As Bridges wrote:

It is when the endings and the time of fallow neutrality are finished that we can launch ourselves out anew, changed and renewed by the destruction of the old life-phase and the journey through nowhere.

In true beginnings we emerge with new priorities; it is not just a reenactment of the past. No new birth is easy, but it can lead to energy, confidence and clarity.

It can be helpful to know that churches go through transitions, too. Perhaps our Long Range Planning Committee can help us intentionally and healthily approach this process of endings and beginnings, with emptiness and germination in between.

Announcements



Family Promise Family Promise Host Week is **February 9-15** - You can help make our church a welcoming "home" for local homeless families in several ways: make a simple dinner or breakfast on Saturday, be an Evening Host 5:30-8:30pm, Overnight Host 8:30pm-7:30am or Daytime Host on Presidents' Day, February, 17th. Interested in helping? Please contact - Sue Schell - sueschell@roadrunner.com 509-432-3767

FAITH DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MEDITATION GROUP— Rev. Steve Van Kuiken leads a meditation group on **Tuesdays at 9:30 am** using Pema Chodron's book, *How to Meditate: A Practical Guide to Making Friends With Your Mind*. Chodron is an American-born Tibetan Buddhist nun and teacher.

SUNDAY SCHOOL— Next Sunday School segment, a 6 week Lenten series will begin **March 1** and will meet every Sunday during worship until April 5th. K-5 kids must register for the session. Email Jenn Hackman at jennhackman@hotmail.com or text 513-256-9868.

BOOK GROUP— Join Stephanie Kane in a ten week book discussion starting on **February 6**, meeting every Thursday at noon. The book, "Inspired" is by Rachel Held Evans and will be available at the BookPeople of Moscow. For more information about the author and the book, go to: www.rachelheldevans.com/inspired.

Are you or your family interested in helping?
The following jobs are available EVERY WEEK!

1. Usher/Greeters
2. Sound/Tech Volunteer
3. Coffee Hour Host

Go to <http://www.signupgenius.com/>
and search for a sign up using
"sueschell@roadrunner.com"

First Sundays of every month

Communion,
Bishop Place Hymn Sing



February Birthdays and *Anniversaries

- 2 Monique Slipher
- 3 Corey Johnson
- 4 Monica Johnson
- 12 James Holstad
- 19 Quinn Johnson
- 19 Charlene Toews
- 23 Janet Miller

View all meetings and updates at the Online
Calendar pullmanucc.org/calendar/

	<u>Meeting date</u>	<u>Time & Church Team</u>
Tuesday	Feb 11	7:00 pm Cong. Life
Tuesday	Feb 18	9:30 am Shared Ministry
Tuesday	Feb 18	7:00 pm Faith Develop.
Wednesday	Feb 19	12:00 pm Cong. Care
Wednesday	Feb 19	1:30 pm Building & Grou.
Wednesday	Feb 19	5:00 pm Stew./Finance
Wednesday	Feb 26	7:00 pm Council



Fat Tuesday Celebration!

Mardi Gras is Tuesday, February 25th so join us at 5:30pm for a pancake supper and a Talent Show featuring your church friends! (yes, that is YOU).

Sign-up sheets for volunteering and to be in the Talent Show will be in the Narthex.

MEALS ON WHEELS— Volunteers are needed February 16-29 to deliver meals to Pullman seniors during lunchtime. Meals are picked up at the Bishop Place kitchen at 11:15am for delivery to homes on a route that covers all Pullman neighborhoods. It takes about one hour, weather permitting, to complete the deliveries. Any questions, please contact Wanda Terry at wandaterry@yahoo.com, 509.595.0450 (call or text). To sign up, go to www.signupgenius.com, scroll down to the bottom of the page to the link for "Find a Sign Up," then type in the email wandaterry@yahoo.com to find CCUCC's Meals on Wheels schedule



The congregation offers support to our friends:

- ♥ Linda James, recovering from surgery at home
- ♥ Pat Lane, recovering at home after surgery



LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE— The Long-Range Planning Committee has established times for small congregational group discussion meetings. The purpose of these meetings is to provide all members of the congregation an opportunity to share their ideas about the future of the church. Please join in these planning sessions by selecting a group for which you can attend both meetings. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex of the church or you can simply email the group leader whose meetings you would like to attend. The groups, leaders, emails, and meeting times are as follows:

Group	Leader	Email	meeting times	dates
#1:	Ace Clark	asa.clark1@frontier.com	Tuesday 5pm	2/25
#2:	Kym Dye	kymdye@moscow.com	Sunday noon	3/1
#3:	Tricia Grantham	tricia.grantham@gmail.com	Sunday noon	3/8
#4:	Herb Hill	hhill@wsu.edu	Monday 7pm	3/2
#5:	Tim Paulitz	fungustim@gmail.com	Sunday 7pm	3/8
#6:	Gary Schell	geschell@roadrunner.com	Sunday 7pm	3/1
#7:	Steve Van Kuiken	steve@pullmanucc.org	Tuesday 1pm	2/25

I hope everyone will be able to attend both of these important meetings and become involved in our planning process.

Sincerely, Herb Hill

NICARAGUA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM UPDATE

Happy New Year from Jess and her family

Hello! It is amazing to me that it has been 19 years since I founded the Nicaraguan scholarship program, the Asla Foundation in 2001, and it is going stronger than ever! What started as a small project helping 25 kids while I was a Peace Corps volunteer in Nicaragua has turned into helping over 350 students attend high school and college. Over 30 have graduated from college! We are following our graduates to see what their futures bring, and we plan to profile some of them in the newsletter. **Your support has made a huge difference to our students, their families, and communities.**

I have been living in the Bay Area for the past 12 years; my regular, full-time job is as the Parks Program Manager for Save the Redwoods League, a non-profit organization that protects, restores and connects people to the redwood forests of California. I just completed a big project – fundraising over \$15 million to buy the Alder Creek giant sequoia property in northern California. You can see a video about the project here: www.bit.ly/alder-grove . "I have always run the Asla Foundation in my free time, and it has been a big source of joy. I am so happy to be able to continue helping our friends in Nicaragua.



We had a baby in April—Auggie—who has been a pure joy for my husband, Nathan, and me. He is teaching us a lot (including how to function on much less sleep!). Even though life has gotten busier, I feel so grateful and blessed to be able to continue my work with our youth in Nicaragua, as it was my home for over two years while I was in the Peace Corps. From seeing the need for supporting youth's education first hand, I am also grateful for the help I'm receiving on the ground in Nicaragua with Nola and Elisa. And here in the U.S., Janet Kendall has been an enormous support – she has been the drive behind our regular newsletters, amongst many other things.

We received over 40 new scholarship applications this month, and because of your generosity, we believe we'll be able to help most, if not all, of these new students, plus the students continuing on from last year. Stay tuned in the coming months for updates on our 2020 students, plus profiles on our students who have graduated from college.

Happiest New Year to you all!

Jess, Nate, and Auggie

More about the Nicaragua Scholarship Program at aslafoundation.org

CCUCC Public Calendar, Holidays in United States

Feb 2020 (Pacific Time - Los Angeles)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
9am - Choir 10:30am - Communi 10:30am - Worship 3pm - Bishop Place 2	12pm - AA Group @ 6pm - LOWV @ 3	9am - Meditation 12pm - AA Group @ 4pm - Aerobics @ 4:30pm - Thrift Shop 4	12pm - AA Group @ 5pm - All UU 5	12pm - AA Group @ 12pm - Book Group 12pm - Thrift Shop 4pm - Aerobics @ 6	12pm - AA Group @ 12pm - Thrift Shop 7	8
9am - Choir 10:30am - Worship 9	12pm - AA Group @ 10	9am - Meditation 12pm - AA Group @ 4pm - Aerobics @ 4:30pm - Thrift Shop 7pm - Cong Life 11	12pm - AA Group @ 12	12pm - AA Group @ 12pm - Thrift Shop 4pm - Aerobics @ 13	Valentine's Day 12pm - AA Group @ 12pm - Thrift Shop 14	15
9am - Choir 10:30am - Worship 16	Presidents' Day 12pm - AA Group @ 17	9am - Meditation 9:30am - Shared 12pm - AA Group @ 4pm - Aerobics @ 4:30pm - Thrift Shop 7pm - Faith 7pm - Pullman Civic 18	12pm - AA Group @ 12pm - Cong. Care 1:30pm - Building 5pm - Stewardship 19	12pm - AA Group @ 12pm - Thrift Shop 4pm - Aerobics @ 5pm - Citizens' 20	12pm - AA Group @ 12pm - Thrift Shop 21	22
9am - Choir 10:30am - Worship 12pm - Long Range 23	12pm - AA Group @ 24	9am - Meditation 12pm - AA Group @ 1pm - LRPC Small 4pm - Aerobics @ 4:30pm - Thrift Shop 5pm - LRPC Small 25	12pm - AA Group @ 7pm - Council 26	12pm - AA Group @ 12pm - Thrift Shop 4pm - Aerobics @ 27	12pm - AA Group @ 12pm - Thrift Shop 28	29



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525 NE Campus Street
Pullman, WA 99163

Return Service Requested

Church Staff

Steve Van Kuiken, Minister

steve@pullmanucc.org

Berta Niyazova, Office Admin/Childcare

office@pullmanucc.org

Kathy Spencer, Organ/Piano

khspencer44@gmail.com

Maarika Vercamer, Choir Director

maarika.v.17@gmail.com

2019/2020 Church Council

Officers: *Moderator:* Tricia Grantham, *Moderator-Elect:* VACANT, *Treasurer:* Lee Bamesberger, *Clerk:* Kym Dye, *Finance and Stewardship:* Carl Hauser, *Building and Grounds:* Asa Clark, *Faith Development:* Jenn Hackman, *Congregational Life:* Sue Schell, *Congregational Care:* Beth Waddel, *Shared Ministry:* Charlene Toews, *Justice and Witness:* Jann Hill